

**REMARKS**

Favorable consideration and allowance of claims 1-15 are respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claim 1 is amended herein to include the following feature (newly added portion underlined):

a lip sync compensator for compensating lip sync between the audio data and the visual data by pausing or fast-forwarding the reproduction of the audio data when an operation mode of the optical disc apparatus is switched from a fast-forwarding mode to a reproduction mode or from a pausing mode to the reproduction mode, or when the audio data are outputted at a level substantially equal to zero or less than a predetermined level at which a TV viewer can hear no sound.

Support for this amendment can be found, for example, on page 14, line 22 – page 15, line 6 of Applicants' specification.

Claim 12 is amended herein to include the following feature (newly added portions underlined):

a lip sync compensator for compensating lip sync between the audio data and the visual data by pausing or fast-forwarding the reproduction of the audio data in a predetermined period during which no sound is outputted, wherein when a delay between the reproduction of the visual data and the reproduction of the audio data is longer than the predetermined period, the lip sync compensator repeats the compensating of the lip sync between the audio data and the visual data more than once until the delay is equal to or smaller than a predetermined standard period.

Support for this amendment can be found, for example, on page 17, line 12 – page 18, line 2 of Applicants' specification.

Claims 1-7 and 9-15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Sung et al. (US 5,594,660), and claim 8 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Sung et al. Applicants' respectfully traverse the rejections as set forth below.

Applicants submit that Sung et al. fails to teach or suggest the lip sync compensator claimed in claim 1. According to amended claim 1, the compensation of the lip sync between the audio data and the visual data is performed when the operation mode of the optic disc apparatus is switched from the fast-forwarding mode to the reproduction mode or from the pausing mode to the reproduction mode, or when the audio data are outputted at a level that is substantially equal to zero or less than a predetermined level at which a TV viewer can hear no sound. Sung et al., however, does not disclose or suggest the relationship between performing the compensation of the lip sync and the switching of the operation mode or the output level of the audio data, as claimed.

Sung et al. discloses that audio data or fractions thereof may be skipped or delayed in order to synchronize the audio playback to the video display of images. *See col. 4, lines 13-16.* Also, Sung et al. discloses that the user may desire to fast forward by skipping multiple frames or pause and step through a number of video frames. *See col. 6, lines 58-60.* However, neither of these disclosures nor the remainder of the reference discloses the relationship

described by the above-mentioned feature of claim 1. Thus, amended claim 1 is patentable over Sung et al.

Claims 2-11 are patentable due to their dependence from claim 1.

Applicants submit that Sung et al. fails to teach or suggest all of the limitations of claim 12. According to amended claim 12, the lip sync compensator repeats the compensation of the lip sync between the audio data and the visual data when the delay is longer than the predetermined period, until the delay is equal to or smaller than a predetermined standard period. In contrast, Sung et al. does not teach or suggest repeating the performance of compensation of the lip sync until the delay becomes shorter than a predetermined period at which the lip sync cannot obviously be noticed by a TV viewer. Instead, Sung et al. simply discloses that audio data or fractions thereof may be skipped or delayed in order to synchronize the audio playback to the video display of images. *See col. 4, lines 13-16.* Thus, amended claim 12 is patentable over Sung et al.

Claims 13-15 are patentable due to their dependence from claim 12.

In view of the foregoing, the application is respectfully submitted to be in form for allowance, and prompt favorable action thereon is earnestly solicited.

If there are any questions regarding this amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

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If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket #010482.52763US).

Respectfully submitted,

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